

**GOVERNOR'S P-20 COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
General Meeting –January 8, 2010**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington  
Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Members Present:** Dr. Carol Peck, Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Dr. Jim Zaharis, Vince Yanez, Dr. Marv Lamer, Dean Gray, J. Elliott Hibbs, Dr. April Osborn, Joel Sideman, Lisa Graham Keegan, DeAnna Rowe, Dr. Pauline Begay, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Superintendent Tom Horne

**Members Absent:** Dr. Michael Kearns, Paul Luna, LaVelle McCoy, and Colleen Niccum

**Guest Presenters:** Governor Janice K. Brewer and Reggie Gilyard

**Staff Present:** Debra Raeder-Gay, Karla Phillips, Dr. Deb Duvall, and Jessica Garner

**Council members and invited guests participated in a light luncheon from 12:15-1:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, and Objectives**

Dr. Carol Peck called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed the Council members, Task Force Chairs, and guests to the meeting. Dr. Peck asked the members, Chairs and invited guests to briefly introduce themselves.

Dr. Peck advised the public that, if they wished to address the Council, a "request to speak" form needed to be submitted to staff in order to be recognized during the Call to the Public portion of the meeting.

Dr. Peck indicated that the purpose of today's meeting is to review key points of Arizona's RTTT Application, and to identify next steps, tasks, roles and responsibilities for submission. Dr. Peck indicated that this work started in September to accomplish basically three major goals: to prepare and submit a SLDS grant application, which was accomplished on December 4, 2009; to prepare and submit Arizona's Phase II Application under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which is due on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>; and finally, preparation of Arizona's Race to the Top Application. Dr. Peck indicated that much has been accomplished in a very short time, and thanked everyone involved for their continued hard work on these efforts.

**2. Approval of Council Minutes**

While waiting for the Governor's arrival at the meeting, Dr. Carol Peck requested a motion for approval of the P-20 Coordinating Council minutes from September 15, 2009; November

9, 2009; and December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Dr. Karen Butterfield motioned that all three sets of minutes be approved. Motion was seconded by J. Elliott Hibbs and unanimously approved.

Governor Janice K. Brewer joined the meeting at this time. Dr. Peck welcomed the Governor and asked that the Council members and Chairs provide a brief introduction.

### **3. RTTT Application Review**

Dr. Deb Duvall thanked the Council members for their hard work. She also thanked the Governor for all her support during the last few months while the application was being created.

Dr. Duvall reviewed the vision of the application, which is that Arizona students will rise in achievement to be among the top tier in the United States, as well as setting an example for achieving excellence amid challenging circumstances. In every way, our plan recognizes the importance of the classroom teacher and the need to ensure that instructional practices impact positively on each student. Additionally, the four reform areas create a cohesive plan for teaching and learning. The strategies outlined in the application will ensure all students have effective teachers and necessary supports for their success. Recognizing the importance of early learning to the students' long-term academic success, our plan expands upon the "move on when ready" concept and includes a "Move on When Reading" initiative. This is supported by a pilot of K-2 assessments to ensure a strong foundation upon which our students build as they transition to upper elementary grades. Dr. Duvall discussed key points under each of the four reform areas:

**Standards and Assessments:** Accepting RTTT funds requires that we adopt commonly agreed to career- and college-ready standards in mathematics and reading/language arts. Our plan further aligns those content expectations with higher education expectations and stipulates we will work with other states to develop aligned assessments. Additionally, we reference our technology and utilize our IDEAL system to provide on-line assessment tools for teachers.

**Statewide Longitudinal Data System:** The plan calls for a secure, scalable data warehouse that includes pre-school through post-secondary information that is helpful to classroom teachers in that it includes: reports that can be used to monitor students' progress or identify groups of students for whom additional instruction is needed; and an on-line item bank from which teachers can develop tests or quizzes aligned to the standards. The data warehouse would be overseen by a group representative of those who send and those who use the data. To assist in ensuring this data warehouse delivers upon the expectations, all LEAs will assign a state identification number to each teacher.

**Great Teachers Great Leaders:** Arizona's goal focuses on pathways for certification, teacher and principal evaluation systems and initiatives to insure equitable distribution of teachers and principals including: increasing alternative certification pathways; strengthening the review process of the 301 performance based pay plans; establishing a Governor's Distinguished Educator Corp.; and working with higher education and other entities to staff

subjects that we struggle with. All participating LEAs will develop teacher and principal evaluation systems and incorporate student achievement growth.

**Supporting Struggling Schools:** Arizona's goal is to build a system that focuses on building capacity and clear criteria for intervening in those situations where, year after year, students are not showing growth. This area tracks the Title I models of intervention. The expectation is that the state will take more aggressive action than it has done up to this point. Our plan will include this aggressive action being implemented during the 2010-2011 school year in a small number of schools that are identified as the "persistently lowest achieving in the state." It is the expectation that LEAs will accommodate the states' efforts.

### **Broad Initiatives:**

As the various task forces met to discuss these four areas, certain topics kept resurfacing – these were STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and the need for high standards, better tests, more teachers, student motivation, and alignment with post-secondary needs. Our application addresses these issues through the creation of regional STEM hubs with a central connection and by expanding currently successful initiatives.

The rural areas were another topic that kept popping up. Our application addresses initiatives to get a stable, effective teaching force in the more remote areas; to ensure technology, e-learning or online instruction as a vehicle; and to provide specific strategies on how best to involve the parents of our English language learners and our Native American students, ensuring student choice as well as data transparency.

Our application addresses transition points and the importance of well-defined interventions, such as "Move on When Reading" credit recovery and tutoring to ensure that students acquire content rather than being concerned about age/grade placement. Each of these areas cut across the four areas of reform. There are not separate activities or events in the teaching/learning process and are threaded throughout our application.

We know what it takes for students to achieve: highly effective teaching at the center of all decisions and plans; ambitious standards and expectation; rigorous accountability, and support for all players; and data to drive decisions at all levels. These are the exact goals and strategies that can be found in Arizona's Race to the Top Application. Through this plan, Arizona will: scale-up what is working for statewide reach; leverage innovation and technology to achieve state-of-the-art education; close the achievement gap without shortchanging stronger schools; and harness the energy and resources of a wide range of stakeholders.

Dr. Duvall then updated the Council on the stakeholder outreach effort indicating that there was a strong commitment from participating LEAs to the state's plans and to effective implementation of reform in the four education areas. If a state is awarded a RTTT grant, participating LEAs have up to 90 days to complete final scopes of work, outlining specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, etc.

Following the presentation, Dr. Duvall and Reggie Gilyard with Boston Consulting Group (BCG) engaged with the Council for questions and answers. Mr. Gilyard also reviewed the responses from the “pressure testing” that BCG had conducted on the application.

#### **4. Remarks from the Governor**

Governor Brewer expressed her appreciation for the work of the P-20 Coordinating Council, Task Force Chairs and members, as well as state staff, for their hard work on the RTTT Application. Governor Brewer stated that she was particularly pleased to see strategies addressing transparency, accountability, and, most importantly, sustainability in light of the state’s economic circumstances, emphasizing that we must not have a funding cliff if we receive RTTT funds and when those funds are expended. The Governor emphasized that regardless of whether we get these funds, the plan is very important, that it furthers much of the work that has begun across the state and that it will help ensure the economic health, competitiveness, and future prosperity of our state. The Governor stated that she believes education reform is critical for Arizona and once again thanked everyone for this effort.

#### **5. SFSF Phase II Application**

Karla Phillips, Education Advisor to Governor Brewer, updated the Council regarding the SFSF Phase II Application. Ms. Phillips indicated that there are 37 data requirements under SFSF to ensure that progress is being made under SFSF. Each data item has two parts: Can you collect the data or verify existing federal data; and is it updated frequently, publicly reported, and available? If a state is not currently able to collect or publicly report the data or other information, the plan must describe the state’s process and timeline for developing and implementing by September 30, 2011. Ms. Phillips briefly reviewed the data points that will be addressed in the SFSF Phase II Application under each of the four reform areas with the Council.

#### **6. Next Steps**

Dr. Peck noted that, as originally envisioned, the work of the Council will continue while we eagerly anticipate a response to our RTTT Application, which should be in April. Dr. Peck indicated that the Council would be reconvened following the outcome of our application to discuss next steps – either to move into an implementation mode or, in the alternative, to re-vamp our application for a Phase II submission. In the meantime, staff will re-convene the Task Forces as necessary and move forward with initiatives identified for continued collaboration and planning for the Council’s future work.

#### **7. Call to the Public**

Dr. Peck made a call to the public. Darcy Renfro thanked the Council and staff for their hard work on the application and expressed appreciation for supporting STEM and for promoting quality STEM programs in schools, particularly for rural areas. Ms. Renfro indicated that SFAz is ready and eager to assist the state as we move forward with our application.

## **8. Adjournment**

Dr. Peck once again thanked the Task Force Chairs and their members for the hard work and dedication to ensuring that Arizona has a bold and innovative RTTT application. Dr. Peck also thanked the Council members for their time and thoughtful consideration of the information presented at today's meeting and looked forward to reconvening again in April after we have received word on our grant application. There being no further business before the Council, Dr. Linda Arzoumanian motioned, and Lisa Keegan seconded, a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.